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Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

Resource Directory

A guide to MDFA programs, staff, publications, and external partners

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Preface: This Directory is intended to guide DFA staff, external partners, and constituents through the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. The information is also available on the web at www.massdfa.org. Updates and corrections will be done regularly on the website between printings of this document. There is a form at the end of the Directory on which changes and suggestions can be provided to the Department. This Directory lists the programs and services of the department and the contact people for them. It also has a section entitled "External Partners" in which affiliated organizations and related partners are listed. The Table of Contents and the Mission Statement sections provide a good overview.

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Mission Statement and Organization

The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) is to support, promote and enhance the long term viability of Massachusetts agriculture with the aim of helping this state's agricultural businesses become as economically and environmentally sound as possible. Our goal is to ensure that our farmers will continue to support and maintain thousands of acres of valuable open space for the benefit of the state's economy, environment, and quality of life. The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture is one of the oldest state agencies in the nation, tracing its origins to the State Board of Agriculture which was established in 1852.The DFA is organized around five divisions:

Division of Administration:

Commissioner: *Jonathan Healy*

Operations

Chief of Staff: Kent Lage

Assistant Commissioner: Richard Hubbard

Office Manager: Linda Demirjian

Finance & Budget Director: Alisha Bouchard

Chief Accountant: Barbara Scoff

Payroll Coordinator: Joyce Toland

Human Resources, IS: Mary Beth Burnand

General Counsel: Lawrence McCormick

Deputy General Counsel: Dorothy Bisbee

Land Use Attorney: Kevin O'Brien

Communications: Diane Baedeker Petit

Publications: Eurides Barros

Receptionist: Lydia Mazzarella

Grants & Signature Programs

Agricultural Business Training Program: Rick Chandler, Director

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program: Susan Phinney, Coordinator

Agro-Environmental Technology Grant Program: Susan Phinney, Coordinator

Agricultural Composting Program: Bill Blanchard, Environmental Coordinator

Agricultural Marketing Grant Program: Mary Jordan, Director

Agricultural Planning Program: Mary Greendale, Director

Aquaculture Grants Program: Scott Soares, Coordinator

Education and Outreach: Janet Christensen, Director

Emergency Food Assistance Program: Craig Richov, Coordinator

Farm Viability Enhancement Program: Craig Richov, Coordinator

Regional "Buy Local" Grant Program: Mary Jordan, Director

II. Division of Agricultural Development

Director: Mary Jordan

Bureau of Agricultural Fairs, Steven Quinn, Bureau Chief

Bureau of Land Use, Richard Hubbard, Assistant Commissioner

Bureau of Markets

III. Division of Animal Health and Dairy Services

Director: James Hines

Bureau of Animal Health, Dr. David Sherman, Bureau Chief

Bureau of Dairying

IV. Division of Regulatory Services

Director: Brad Mitchell

Pesticide Bureau

Bureau of Farm Products and Plant Industries, George Porter, Bureau Chief

Division of Administration

Commissioner's Office

Jonathan L. Healy, Commissioner, 617-626-1701, Jay.Healy@state.ma.us
Kent Lage, Chief of Staff, 617-626-1702, Kent.Lage@state.ma.us
Linda Demirjian, Office Manager, 617- 626-1703, Linda.Demirjian@state.ma.us

Fiscal and Budget

Alisha Bouchard, Director
617-626-1716, Alisha.Bouchard@state.ma.us

Human Resources

Mary Beth Burnand, Director
617-626-1710, MaryBeth.Burnand@state.ma.us

- Personnel
- Training
- Labor Relations
- Civil Rights

Payroll

Joyce Toland, Payroll Coordinator
617-626-1713, Joyce.Toland@state.ma.us

- Employee Benefits
- MBTA

Accounting

Barbara Scoff, Chief Accountant
617-626-1714, Barbara.Scoff@state.ma.us

- Payables/Receivables
- Supplies
- Encumbrances

Office of Counsel

Larry McCormick, General Counsel
Dorothy Bisbee, Deputy General Counsel
Kevin O'Brien Land Use Attorney

Communications

Diane Baedeker Petit, Communications Coordinator
617-626-1752, Cell phone: 508-965-8417, Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us

- Media relations
- Farm & Market Report
- DFA Update
- Other publications
- Web site – www.massdfa.org
- Century Farms
- Focus on Farms

Grants and Signature Programs

Agricultural Business Training Program (ABTP)

This program responds to the increasing demand from farmers, lenders, regulators, and municipal officials for better opportunities for agricultural operators to master basic business planning principles. The Massachusetts agricultural climate favors farmers who develop and can articulate cohesive and sustainable plans for their future, including:

- Maintaining and actively using as a management tool basic financial tracking tools for their business operations, both current and planned
- Identifying and reaching markets that net them better returns
- Defining and providing a living wage for themselves and key employees that keeps them on the land and fits their family needs
- Supporting loans and /or personal investment over time through careful financial planning and monitoring
- Working effectively as partners with the towns in which they are located
- Achieving compliance with the regulatory issues both current and anticipated

ABTP uses several training approaches to help farmers understand their financial situations, plan their operations, track performance and project the effects of anticipated changes. Chief among these is a 10-session, nationally recognized NxLevel© training course for agricultural entrepreneurs entitled "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity". Taught by certified instructors, "Tilling the Soil" includes additional MDFA-sponsored technical assistance on issues of particular significance to a given farm participant. Class size is limited to 15 agricultural businesses. More than 100 farms have completed this business planning program so far, with regional classes scheduled in the winter months wherever demand is sufficient.

☎ Contact: Rick Chandler 413-577-0459, rchandler@umext.umass.edu

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)

This program provides funding to farmers to install water quality protection practices such as buffers, animal waste systems, pesticide storage facilities, fencing, culverts, seed and gutters. All farmers who actively farm five acres or more of land that could potentially impact a water resource are eligible. There are three criteria for selecting farms to participate in the funding: 1.The farm location as it relates to water resources. 2. The existence of a conservation plan. 3. The environmental benefit of the best management practice to be funded. Top priority is protecting ground and surface water supplies. Protecting other resources, such as shellfish beds and trout streams, is a second priority.

☎ Contact: Susan Phinney 617-626-1772, Susan.Phinney@state.ma.us

Agro-Environmental Technology Grant Program

The "Agro-Tech" program addresses agriculture related environmental concerns and agricultural research and development needs and opportunities. Each year the Department considers projects that have practical commercial application involving new or alternative technologies, practices or organizational arrangements that will stimulate expanded agricultural development, economic activity and employment growth. Proposals can be submitted by public and private agencies and organizations, business and industry, educational institutions and local governments in Massachusetts. Individuals may apply if the project is endorsed by a specific commodity group, growers' association or industry. Up to $50,000 per project is available. Awards are allotted on a matching basis.

☎ Contact: Susan Phinney 617-626-1772, Susan.Phinney@state.ma.us

Agricultural Composting Program

The composting program encourages farmers to compost their organic waste materials and residues. The Department offers technical assistance and regulatory guidance for existing and new composting operations. The program registers agricultural composting operations, which are then exempt from DEP site assignment, and which allows farms to receive compostable materials from off the farm.

☎ Contact: William Blanchard 617-626-1709, William.Blanchard@state.ma.us

Agricultural Marketing Grant Program

Grants are available to Massachusetts agricultural organizations and other groups (i.e. commodity groups, cooperatives and non-profit organizations) for the promotion of an agricultural commodity and/or the entire agricultural industry. The projects should increase consumer-awareness and/or offer technical marketing assistance to one or more Massachusetts agricultural entities.

☎ Contact: Mary Jordan 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

Agricultural Planning Program

This program facilitates among and between internal and external partners to combine resources in the agency's "Toolbox." The Toolbox is a means of packaging DFA programs and services along with those of partners to provide a continuum of assistance to Massachusetts's farmers and food producers. If a client accesses DFA, coming through any door, any program or service, the goal is to make him or her aware of, and have easy access to *all* DFA programs. In cases where a farmer needs help with something for which DFA does not have internal expertise, staff attempts to connect the farmer with a partner from the Toolbox. The Toolbox maximizes flexibility among the programs and limits paperwork and phone calls to reach the assistance constituents need. DFA staff can direct people to the appropriate information or contact. As new services or programs are added, they will be listed on the DFA website under "Toolbox".

☎ Contact: Mary Greendale 508 429 2813, Mary.Greendale@state.ma.us

Agriculture Preservation Restriction Program (APR)

This program is covered in the section entitled Division of Agricultural Development, under Bureau of Land Use.

Boston Public Market

This project aims to initiate and assist in the establishment of a public market in Boston. Through a grant from, and cooperative agreement with, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the program works with a consultant and various city agencies and producer group representatives to research a suitable site and develop facility and business plans for the market. The market concept will be further developed through networking with the private sector and public agencies to research and organize implementation strategies and finance development.

☎ Contact: Janet Christensen 617-626-1735, Janet.Christensen@state.ma.us

Emergency Food Assistance Program - MEFAP

In response to severe federal cutbacks and to hunger studies showing inadequate resources for an increasing number of families, the state legislature has provided $6.43 million for food in each of the last two years. To benefit the Commonwealth's food and agriculture industry, preference is given to state-based vendors and local farms to supply that food. Massachusetts grown products purchased include eggs, turkeys, fruits and vegetables. The Greater Boston Food Bank contracts to purchase and distribute food through the state's four largest food banks. These four food banks then distribute the foods to pantries, shelters and kitchens statewide.

☎ Contact: Craig Richov 508-792-7711 x14, Craig.Richov@state.ma.us

Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP)

The Farm Viability Enhancement Program assists farmers in improving the economic bottom line and environmental integrity of their operations through the development and implementation of business plans tailored to their situations. The program has three phases. In Phase I, a farmer will work with a planning team to develop a plan to increase on-farm income and preserve the farm's environmental resources. These comprehensive farm plans suggest ways for farmers to increase their on-farm income through such methods as improved management practices, diversification, direct marketing, value-added initiatives and agri-tourism. In addition, the Plans make recommendations concerning environmental and resource conservation concerns on participating farms. In Phase II, up to $40,000 per farm may be available to implement selected elements of the plan in exchange for a 5-10 year agricultural use (restriction) covenant. Phase III is a reporting phase after completion of the changes recommended in the plan.

☎ Contact: Craig Richov 508-792-7711 x14, Craig.Richov@state.ma.us.

Regional "Buy Local" Grant Program

The Regional Buy Local Promotional Grant Program offers up to $75,000 to an organization (e.g. a non-profit, an agriculture association, a regional planning agency, etc.) to lead the coordination of a regional "Buy Local" promotional campaign. This campaign's goals include: 1) Increasing sales of locally grown and produced foods; 2) Increasing awareness of Massachusetts agriculture; 3) Building partnerships between traditional and non-traditional groups to support and promote agriculture; and 4) Building local capacity to promote regional agriculture independently in the future. To date, grants have ranged from $15,000 to $65,000.

☎ Contact: Mary Jordan 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

Aquaculture Development Program

The Aquaculture Development Aquaculture Strategic Plan was developed in 1996 and included issues like permitting and technical assistance, marketing and promotional support, educational opportunities and direct assistance to the industry through an annual grants program.

With funding provided by the 1996 Act to revitalize the seaports of the Commonwealth, the program developed and coordinated a statewide network and established three aquaculture centers. They include the Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture (WMCSA) at Hampshire College in Amherst, the Northeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center (NEMAC) at Salem State College in Salem and the Southeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center (SEMAC) administered by Barnstable County/UMASS Cooperative Extension service at Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

To date, more than $195,000 from the Department and the Seaport Bond Initiative has been invested to support 10 industry aquaculture development projects. These included:

- Development and publication of aquaculture educational materials through a National Science Foundation collaboration with the New England Board of Higher Education;
- Support of a variety of industry marketing and promotional activities including the administration of an online interactive fish and seafood trade lead data base and participation at the International Boston Seafood Show; development, implementation and coordination of a multi-agency project review and permitting process aimed at streamlining the bureaucratic processes.

As a result of an enthusiastic and creative public, the initiative of public and private institutions and coordinated efforts of multiple state agencies including, the Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, Division of Marine Fisheries and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Massachusetts aquaculture industry has grown by more than 150% in industry membership and better than 60% in area under cultivation since the inception of the aquaculture development program.

☎ Contact Scott Soares, 617-626-1730, Scott.Soares@state.ma.us

Aquaculture Publications & Resources

Aquaculture Curriculum Guidance Document

Produced as a result of funding provided by the USDA Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center.

Aquaculture Operation Description Form

A two-page form designed to provide assistance in identifying the permits required for any Aquaculture facility proposed for Massachusetts. A completed operation description form provides a useful starting point for the determination of permits and regulations applicable to the proposed activity.

Aquaculture Permit Guidance Document

A compilation of Massachusetts permits and regulations for activities associated with any form of Aquaculture proposed for Massachusetts. The Guide was developed in an effort to facilitate the permitting of Aquaculture in the Commonwealth.

Aquaculture Resource Library and Technical Assistance Referrals

☎ Contact Scott Soares @ 617-626-1730

Division of Agricultural Development

Director: Mary Jordan
617-626-1750
Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

Overview

The Division of Agricultural Development works to foster the sustainability of Massachusetts agriculture through innovative programs while serving the needs of consumers by providing information on local foods and agricultural products.

Bureau of Fairs

The Bureau of Fairs allots prize monies to agricultural fairs and supports 4-H activities in National Competitions. The staff manages the state exposition building in West Springfield, inspects fairs, conducts workshops, seminars, and training sessions, and publishes a listing of fairs, agri-calendars and fair letters.

Fairs Staff

Stephen F. Quinn, Chief
617-626-1740, Stephen.Quinn@state.ma.us

Ellen Hart, Administrative Assistant
617-626-1742, Ellen.Hart@state.ma.us

Fair Awards

DFA makes awards to these types of fairs:

Major Fairs

- Sponsored and conducted by an agricultural or horticultural society incorporated under Massachusetts law
- Fair must operate at least three days annually
- Inspected and approved by the Department of Food & Agriculture
- A majority of competitive exhibits as listed in Chapter 128, Section 2, Paragraph F of the MGL

Community Fairs

- Sponsored and conducted by an organized agricultural or horticultural society in operation for at least one day for a period of five hours
- Must be inspected by the Department of Food & Agriculture
- Shall include competitive exhibits

Livestock Shows

- Specific breed shows
- In operation for at least one day for a period of five hours
- Inspected and approved by the Department of Food & Agriculture

Grange Fairs

- Sponsored and conducted by a local grange organization
- In operation for at least one day for a period of five hours
- Must be inspected by the Department of Food & Agriculture
- Shall include competitive exhibits

Youth Fairs

- Sponsored and conducted by a youth organization group
- In operation for at least one day for a period of five hours
- Must be inspected by the Department of Food & Agriculture
- Shall include competitive exhibits

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Bureau Of Land Use

The APR Program is a voluntary program, which is intended to offer a preservation alternative to farmers and other owners or "prime", and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. Towards this end, the program offers to pay farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland, i.e. the non-agricultural value, in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, which precludes any use future of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

APR Program

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, established by the Legislature in 1977 and administered by DFA's Bureau of Land Use, is the cornerstone of the state's farmland protection efforts. The program's main goal is the preservation of agricultural lands comprised of "prime" and "state important" soils. Since its first acquisition in 1980, the program has invested over $126 million in protecting nearly 50,662 acres of agricultural land in 142 cities and towns across the Commonwealth as of March 2001. The Open Space Bond Bill and federal funding provide funds for the APR Program. The APR Program is nationally recognized as a model program.

Under the APR Program, the Commonwealth purchases from farmers the non-agricultural value of agricultural lands. The farmer receives the difference between the land's agricultural value and its fair market value. The farmer retains incidence of ownership over the land and can sell it or will it to heirs with limitations on non-agricultural uses of the land. The terms of the restriction require that the farm remain in agriculture in perpetuity, even if conveyed to someone else.

☎ Contacts: Rich Hubbard, 617-626-1704, Rich.Hubbard@state.ma.us

Chris Chisholm, 508-792-7712 x 16, Chris.Chisholm@state.ma.us

Environmental Review Program

The Environmental Review Program examines development proposals, which may affect farmland or agricultural land in Massachusetts. The program tracks all Mass. Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) cases and provides detailed analyses, discussion and comments for approximately 60 cases annually. Some MEPA cases invoke the provisions of Executive Order 193, which requires avoidance or mitigation when state or federal/state funds are used to convert any farmland to another use. The Program also advocates for agriculture in land use planning activities.

☎ Contact: Marcia Starkey, 508-792-7712, x19, Marcia.Starkey@state.ma.us

The Farmland Assessment Act (Chapter 61A)

Introduced in 1973, the Farmland Assessment Act (Chapter 61A) established a lower property valuation and tax rate for working farms in the Commonwealth. Prior to that, because of the high value of land, too many farmers were unable to afford the taxes on their property, forcing many to sell their farms. The Chapter 61A Program has allowed many farmers who would otherwise have been forced out of business, to stay in farming.

☎ Contact: Barbara Hopson, 508-792-7712 x21, Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us

State-owned Farmland Program

Since 1974, the Bureau of Land Use has been making vacant public lands available to established commercial farmers as well as new entry farmers. These lands are used to augment privately owned agricultural land.

Approximately 550 acres of farmland are currently protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution as conservation land. The Department is pursuing permanent protection on additional state-owned land using several strategies including APRs and legislative transfers.

The State-Owned Farmland Program works closely with other state agencies, as well as private entities,to develop land use plans that incorporate agricultural land and development. Additionally, nearly 1,400 acres of land under the program are managed according to best management practices, which include IPM, cover cropping, and erosion control techniques. All state-owned farmland under this program conforms to the Clean State Initiative.

☎ Contact: Barbara Hopson, 508-792-7712, x21, Barbara Hopson@state.ma.us

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

DFA's GIS program works in collaboration with existing department programs in the development of an up-to-date database containing pertinent information of the status of agriculture in the Commonwealth. Data is displayed using thematic mapping to create numerous land use scenarios such as protected agricultural land, agricultural land use in proximity to proposed development projects, and active agricultural land near surface and groundwater resources.

DFA and MassGIS have digital soils data for Hampden/ Hampshire East, Hampden/Hampshire West, Barnstable, Norfolk/Suffolk and Berkshire counties. This information represents the official digital version of Natural Resources Conservation Service data. Other survey areas will be released as they become available. Areas soon to be released include two thirds of Worcester County, Bristol and Essex counties.

☎ Contact: Barbara Hopson 508-792-7712, x21, Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us

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Bureau Of Markets

The Bureau of Markets promotes the viability and sustainability of Massachusetts' food and agricultural businesses through marketing and educational activities. We encourage consumers to buy Massachusetts food and agricultural products, assist farmers in wholesale marketing, assist farmers in establishing direct marketing through farmers' markets and roadside stands, foster economic development for the farm community and specialty food industry, and assist in foreign export programs. The Bureau administers the Federal-State Market Improvement Program (FSMIP), a USDA grant program fostering innovation in marketing for agriculture. The Bureau also creates a number of publications (see list).
☎ Contact: Mary Jordan, 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

Agri-Tourism

Agricultural tourism merges the world of travel with experiences of farming and our food and fiber production. The Bureau of Markets, in cooperation with University of Massachusetts Extension and Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT), holds agri-tourism seminars to teach farmers about tourism as a means for expanding and diversifying their operations.
☎ Contact Anneli Johnson at 617-626-1755, Anneli.Johnson@state.ma.us

Agricultural Directional Signage Program

The Ag-Signage Program, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Highway Department, allows for the placement of directional signs along state roadways for farms located off those roadways.
☎ Contact: Anneli Johnson 617-626-1755, Anneli.Johnson@state.ma.us.

Agricultural Marketing Grant Program

The Department's Agricultural Marketing Grant Program provides agricultural organizations the opportunity to receive matching grant funds to assist in their promotional efforts. Grants range from $500 to $15,000. All grant recipients are required to acknowledge the Department's support and/or use the "Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher!" or "Mass. Made with Pride" logos in order to receive grant funds.
☎ Contact: Mary Jordan 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

Commercial Kitchen

The Department has awarded $464,000 to the Franklin county Community Development Corporation for a portion of the cost of developing the food-processing center. The Western Massachusetts Food Processing Center will consist of a commercial kitchen, cold and dry storage space, and a packaging area. The center will allow businesses to rent the facility on a time-share basis instead of investing in expensive equipment, and has the potential to generate new revenues for agriculture and specialty food producers in the area.
☎ Contact Bonita Oehlke 617-626-1753,Bonita.Oehlke.@state.ma.us

Commodity Group Assistance

The Bureau of Markets works closely with more than twenty commodity groups such as Mass. Fruit Growers Assoc. or N.E. Vegetable and Berry Growers Assoc., and provides assistance to them in their marketing efforts. Staff members regularly attend commodity group meetings, speak at industry conferences, and generally serve in an outreach role to farmers. The Bureau also co-organizes Agriculture Day at the State House with the Massachusetts Agricultural Promotion Board (MAPB), an organization that represents many of the state's commodity groups.

☎ Contact: Mary Jordan 617-626-1850, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

Export Database and Directory

The Department completed an export database and directory in four languages. The directory was mailed to most of the agricultural trade offices around the world and is distributed at international trade shows as well as in response to buyer inquiries. (See **Publications List**)

☎ Contact Bonita Oehlke 617-626-1753, Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us

Farmer/Chefs Programs

See **Publications List** for farms and restaurants that have partnered to provide local, farm fresh products to the restaurant industry.

☎ Contact: David Webber 617-626-1754,David.Webber@state.ma.us

Farmers' Market Coupon Program

The Bureau administers the Farmers' Market Coupon Program, a federal/state program that provides coupons redeemable for produce exclusively at farmers' markets. Coupons are available through the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) and other low-income outreach programs. This program provides fresh, nutritious, local fruits and vegetables to those at nutritional risk, while supporting local farm sales at farmers' markets.

☎ Contact: David Webber 617-626-1754, David Webber@state.ma.us

Farmers' Market Program

Over 100 farmers' markets now operate in cities and towns across Massachusetts. The Department provides technical assistance to individuals or groups trying to start a farmers' market, helps farmers find appropriate farmers' markets to participate in, and promotes farmers' markets through the publication of consumer listings (See **Publications List**), news releases, and other promotional activities.

☎ Contact: David Webber at 617-626-1754, David Webber@state.ma.us.

Festivals and Events - Consumer Outreach

In an effort to increase awareness about local agriculture, the Bureau of Markets attends a number of consumer events. Some of these events include: Earth Day; the Boston Vegetarian Festival; the "Taste of Mt. Wachusett" Festival; The Boston Food Fest; and the Great Mass. Workout. In addition, we co-sponsor both Massachusetts Marketplace East & West. At these events, we distribute thousands of brochures and sell "Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher!" merchandise items. Both the brochures and the merchandise help reinforce the Department "Buy Local" message to consumers.

☎ Contact: Rick LeBlanc 617-626-1759, Rick.LeBlanc@state.ma.us

International Market Development

The Department works with growers and food processors to help them develop domestic and international markets through counseling, technical assistance, and referrals. As a part of this process, the Department coordinates market research and promotion efforts with at least six other governmental agencies and an extensive group of agricultural trade officers abroad. Offerings include the Market Access Program, which allows producers to offset promotional costs in export markets by 50 percent.

☎ Contact: Bonita Oehlke 617-626-1753, Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us

Marketing Massachusetts at Trade Shows

Massachusetts pavilions at trade shows have proven effective for marketing to a variety of buyers to create a greater awareness of the quality and variety of local food products. Shows with a Massachusetts pavilion have ranged in size from 400 - 2,400 square feet and have reached regional, national and international buyers. Trade shows coordinated by the Department have included the International Boston Seafood Show, Northeast Foodservice and Lodging Show, Natural Products Gourmet Show, Summer International Fancy Food and Gourmet Show, and the International Food and Drink Exhibition. The Department also participated in Harvest New England pavilions at the US Food Export Showcase and the Chicago Fancy Food Show.

☎ Contact: Bonita Oehlke 617-626-1753,Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Marketplace

The Annual Massachusetts Marketplace event is held in August at the Elm Bank Reservation Dover. Co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, this two-day event educates the public, the media, wholesale buyers and governmental officials as to the size, variety and crucial importance of the food and agricultural sector. Friday, the first day, is dedicated to the industry with a focus on buyers. Morning educational seminars feature buyers sharing their latest information and advice. In the afternoon, the tradeshow, comprised of Massachusetts' producers including specialty food producers as well as non-profit organizations, present their product to a vast trade audience. Later in the afternoon, chefs from renowned restaurants throughout Massachusetts present dishes incorporating local products at the show at the "Taste of Massachusetts" Reception. The second day is open to the public with annual attendance of approximately 3,000 people. The Marketplace turns into a festival/ fair atmosphere with activities and interests for all ages. There are all types of children's activities, educational displays as well as the Marketplace Trade Show.

☎ Contact: Mary Jordan at 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us or

Bonita Oehlke at 617-626-1753, Bonita.Oehkle@state.ma.us.

"Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher!" and "Mass Made with Pride"

The Bureau uses the two slogans "Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher!" and "Mass Made with Pride" to promote food and agriculture in Massachusetts in its promotional efforts. The logos help consumers identify Massachusetts grown and produced products. We offer point-of-purchase (POP) materials free of charge to all Massachusetts ag-related businesses that use these slogans to promote their products. POP materials currently available include price cards, posters, shelf talkers, and stickers.

☎ Contact: Rick LeBlanc 617-626-1759, Rick.LeBlanc@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Building at the Big E:

☎ Contact Steve Quinn 617-626-1740, Steve.Quinn@state.ma.us

Pick Your Own Farms - PYO/Roadside Farmstands

See Publications List for a brochure of participating farms where consumers can visit local farms and pick the freshest produce right off the plant. PYO gives people the chance to experience a farm and select the freshest produce available.

☎ Contact Rick LeBlanc 617-626-1759, Rick.LeBlanc@state.ma.us

Value-Added Food Processing Development and Promotion

A new "Specialty Products Directory" lists over 470 Massachusetts value-added growers and food manufacturers (see Publications). In addition, a "Gourmet Guide" features companies and growers who sell via mail order to the public. The Department's publication "How to Start Your Specialty Food Business in Massachusetts" continues to be very popular.

☎ Contact: Bonita Oehlke 617-626-1753, Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us

Wholesale Programs

The Seventh Edition of the "Green Book: A Directory of Massachusetts Wholesale Growers" was published and distributed in June of 1999. The Green Book lists over 400 growers and is distributed to supermarkets, distributors, restaurants, roadside stand operations, and wholesalers (See Publications).

The Department also meets with buyers from supermarket chains to educate them about the availability of local products. Buyers are given samples of "Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher!" point-of-purchase materials, copies of the Green Book and other pertinent information about Massachusetts wholesale growers. Joint-promotional efforts are encouraged with the supermarket industry and often include product sampling and other consumer outreach efforts. In addition, DFA helped organize the New England Produce Council's "Harvest New England Pavilion" in 1999 in Atlanta at the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) trade show.

☎ Contact: Rick LeBlanc 617-626-1759, Rick.LeBlanc@state.ma.us

Agricultural Development Publications & Resources

These publications are available by calling 617-626-1700.

Ag in the Classroom Newsletter

This regular publication promotes programs and activities and notifies readers of upcoming events.

Agricultural Fairs

Agricultural fairs are a traditional American celebration of the harvest and showcase the important role of farms in communities across our Commonwealth. This listing offers dates, times, locations and attractions at the 19 major agricultural fairs, nine community fairs, 12 youth fairs, six livestock fairs and 15 Grange fairs held across the Bay State.

Agri-Tourism Directory

A new and improved edition of this popular directory is now available with information on farms geared to accommodating tourists and local visitors, tour groups and school groups. These farms offer a wide variety of activities and events including farm tours, hay rides, hiking trails, picnic facilities, and bed and breakfast accommodations.

APR Newsletter

This newsletter is a quarterly report to APR owners and interested parties.

Chef's Choice Brochures

This series of brochures showcases Massachusetts fresh produce and helps consumers choose, store and prepare fresh local products. Each brochure features recipes provided by Bay State chefs, which feature local products.

- Chef's Choice: Recipes Celebrating Massachusetts Apples
- Chef's Choice: Recipes Celebrating Massachusetts Cranberries
- Chef's Choice: Recipes Celebrating Massachusetts Tomatoes
- Chef's Choice: Recipes Celebrating Massachusetts Sweet Corn

Chef's Guide to Massachusetts Farm Products

Lists over 100 farms that are interested in selling to chefs across the state.

Does Farmland Protection Pay?

This is a study and comparison of the costs to deliver community services by different land uses in three Massachusetts towns by American Farmland Trust.

Farm and Market Report

A monthly newsletter that covers all Department programs and news. The Farm and Market Report lists important upcoming dates and offers a free classified ad section for farmers and the agricultural industry.

Food for Life

Northeast Organic Farming Association – Massachusetts Chapter publishes a directory of organic farms and markets that carry locally grown organic produce.

The Fresh Connection

This quarterly newsletter for chefs and others in the food service industry, educates readers about Massachusetts agriculture, and the availability of products.

Get 5 A Day the Local Way

Since the National Cancer Institute is encouraging everyone to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day, why not make your servings with fresh local vegetables? This brochure gives you creative ideas to do just that.

Guide to Massachusetts Farmstead Cheeses

Cheeses from the Bay State have earned prestigious awards and are featured at many leading restaurants. Many of the cheese producers in this listing offer tours and cheese tastings.

How to Start Your Own Specialty Foods Business in Massachusetts

This publication includes sections on production, the business side, developing a business plan, label and product regulations, label design, promotion, distribution & sales, trade shows, and using the Internet for marketing and resource information.

Massachusetts Aquaculture Association Newsletter

Massachusetts Aquaculture Products Directory

A publication organized by the Southeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center with support from DFA. The guide is a voluntary opportunity for Massachusetts Aquaculture industry members.

Massachusetts Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Farms listed in this brochure participate in Community Supported Agriculture, a direct marketing alternative in which farmers grow food for a select group of consumers (shareholders or subscribers). The consumers pledge to buy a portion of the farm's crop before the season begins. In return, the grower offers crops each week as different products become available.

Massachusetts Egg Producers

The Massachusetts Poultry Association cooperated in producing this listing of more than 20 producers of farm-fresh Massachusetts eggs. The publication also features selection, nutrition and storage information as well as several egg recipes.

Massachusetts Farm Fresh Dairy Products

This listing includes dairy farms across the Commonwealth that produces a wide variety of dairy products and sell directly to consumers. Some farms even offer old-fashioned home delivery.

Massachusetts Fresh Cider

This brochure lists over 50 cider mills as well as recipes featuring cider and information on the history of cider.

Massachusetts Gourmet Guide

This booklet lists producers of a wide variety of specialty and "value-added" food and farm products available by mail order. Products ranging from farmstead cheeses to jams and preserves, to wool products and local wines are represented.

Massachusetts Pick-Your-Own Guide

This directory lists the many Massachusetts farms that allow you to "pick your own" fruits and vegetables. Organized by county, each listing provides the farm name, address, phone, hours, directions, and other pertinent information.

Massachusetts Green Book Directory

The Green Book lists over 400 growers and is distributed to supermarkets, distributors, restaurants, roadside stand operations and wholesalers.

Massachusetts Specialty Products Directory

This book lists wholesale/retail producers of a wide variety of specialty and "value-added" food and farm products. Products ranging from farmstead cheeses to jams and preserves, to wool products and local wines are represented. This publication is targeted to wholesale buyers.

Massachusetts Turkey Farms

More than 20 farms are included on this list, which offer fresh turkey and turkey products such as turkey pie, roasted turkey dinners, turkey sausage, and more. The brochure also provides instructions on preparing a roast turkey.

The Wineries of Massachusetts

The Bay State's 21 wineries are featured in this brochure. Gathering from the diversity and steeped in the best of New England traditions, local wines are made with loving care from grapes, fruits, berries, honey, and flowers.

Division of Animal Health and Dairy Services

Director: James Hines
617-626-1810
James.Hines@state.ma.us

Overview

The objective of the Division of Animal Health & Dairy Services is to ensure a healthy environment for the Commonwealth's animal population and, hence, the Commonwealth's consumers. Ensuring this healthy environment requires careful inspection and monitoring to enforce the laws and regulations.

Bureau Of Milk Marketing

The Division's objective is to monitor the milk production, hauling, distribution, pricing, and marketing with the goal of assuring a safe, high quality supply of milk at fair prices for consumers, processors and dairy farmers such that orderly markets are maintained.

Bureau of Dairying

Objective: To monitor the milk production, hauling, distribution, pricing, and marketing with the goal of assuring a safe, high quality supply of milk at fair prices for consumers, processors and dairy farmers such that orderly markets are maintained.

Dairy Farm Inspection

The overall goal of the Dairy Farm Inspection program is to help assure a safe, healthy supply of milk to processors, and ultimately, consumers. Many factors influence the quality and quantity of milk produced by a dairy farm. Bacteriological counts produced through testing of milk samples helps determine the quality of milk. When the counts exceed regulatory standards, a dairy farmer is required to return to compliance in a timely fashion. The Bureau of Dairying licenses every bovine dairy farm in the state in accordance with Chapter 94. The Bureau also inspects, samples and evaluates goat milk facilities. The Dairy Farm Inspection Program also helps dairy farmers comply with Appendix N requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

☎ Contact: Bill Vasquez 617-626-1812, Bill.Vasquez@state.ma.us

Mastitis Program

The Mastitis Program offers assistance to dairy farmers by providing laboratory analysis of milk samples to identify problem areas in their herds to reduce the overall impact of mastitis on their herds and ultimately, on the quality of milk they produce.

☎ Contact: Jim Hines 617-626-1810,James.Hines@state.ma.us

Hauler-Sampler Program:

The Hauler-Sampler Program establishes a training and registration program for milk hauler-samplers. Milk haulers are required to take milk samples. These milk samples are tested for milk component contents (i.e., butterfat, protein, and other milk solids) as well as to gather quality information such as bacterial counts and to determine the presence of antibiotics. The Bureau maintains a hauler-sampler program to inform and train haulers on proper sampling techniques and the importance of sampling in the quality and profitability of a dairy farm.

☎ Contact: Bill Vasquez 617-626-1811, Bill.Vasquez@state.ma.us

Laboratory Equipment Inspection and Certification:

In the process of sampling milk, the equipment used must be regularly maintained to assure accuracy. The Bureau works with laboratories to certify the equipment used in testing milk.

☎ Contact: Bill Vasquez 617-626-1812, Bill.Vasquez@state.ma.us

Tanker Inspection:

Milk from throughout the region is hauled from the dairy farm to Massachusetts' processors in tanker trucks. A high quality milk product requires these tankers to be properly maintained. To assure this proper maintenance, all milk tankers must be inspected, and the Bureau of Dairying performs these inspections.

☎ Contact: Bill Vasquez 617-626-1812, Bill.Vasquez@state.ma.us

Dairy Policy

Aside from the regulations for milk safety, milk and dairy product markets are highly regulated. Milk prices to the farmer are the focal point. The objective of these policies is to offer stability in the market.

☎ Contact: Bill Gillmeister 617-626- 1811, Bill Gillmeister@state.ma.us

Producer Security Fund:

In the 1983 Acts, Chapter 706, the Legislature established the Milk Producers' Security Fund. This fund was established to protect dairy farmers from milk dealers who default on payments for milk already received. The Fund consists of dairy farmer contributions collected through assessments on dairy farmers.

☎ Contact: Robin Rice 617-626-1794, Robin.Rice@state.ma.us

Milk Receiver's License and Security

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 94 sections 42a and 42b require, with several exceptions, any person to be licensed by the Commissioner and to maintain proper security to protect dairy farms against default on the part of those who have purchased milk from milk producers. This security or bonding is complementary to the Milk Producers Security Fund described above.

☎ Contact: John Nunes 617-626-1813, John.Nunes@state.ma.us

Milk Production and Distribution

The quantity of milk produced in Massachusetts, New England, and, indeed, throughout the country is critical in determining milk prices and the availability of fresh milk for market. Tracking milk production is, therefore, important not only in developing farm price expectations, but is also imperative for dairy policy analysis and recommendations.

☎ Contact: Bill Gillmeister 617-626-1811, Bill.Gillmeister@state.ma.us

Milk Pricing

Milk prices are critical tools for making business decisions for dairy farmers and for making recommendations to policy makers. Milk pricing is also highly regulated and monitoring the regulatory developments is a constant challenge. Changes to the regulations can have quite a significant impact on industry profitability.

☎ Contact: Bill Gillmeister 617-626-1811, Bill.Gillmeister@state.ma.us

Prohibited Transactions

The Massachusetts General Laws specify Certain Prohibited Transactions with milk in section 14 of Chapter 94A. The primary objective of this in combination with other Chapters and sections is to maintain orderly markets. Turn-of-the-century price wars, unfair trade practices by milk dealers all conspired to create disorderly, even destructive market competition. Prohibited transactions include selling milk below cost, price discrimination, and other forms of anti-competitive behaviors which lends easily to damaging affects on consumer prices and farmers.

☎ Contact: Bill Gillmeister 617-626-1811, Bill.Gillmeister@state.ma.us

Milk Dealer's License

The Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 94A section 5 requires all milk dealers, as defined in section 1 of the same chapter, to be licensed. All licensed, out-of-state milk processors must obtain a milk pasteurization permit and all milk processing facilities must have a milk plant permit. The Bureau of Milk Marketing is responsible for maintaining such records.

☎ Contact: Robin Rice 617-626-1794, Robin.Rice@state.ma.us.

Bureau of Animal Health

The Bureau of Animal Health, within the Department of Food and Agriculture, help to prevent the spread of contagious disease in domestic animals by enforcing laws, regulations and orders relative to the inspection, examination, quarantine and care of animals affected with or exposed to contagious disease.

☎ Contact: Dr. David Sherman, Chief, 617-626-1790, David.Sherman@state.ma.us

Pet Shops

Currently, there are approximately 200 licensed pet shops in Massachusetts. All pet shops must be licensed by the Department in order to sell animals (not fish). The license requirements are in place to protect the health of the animals, as well as that of the visiting public and the employees who work in these shops.

☎ Contact: Esther Wegman 617-626-1795, Esther.Wegman@state.ma..us

Rabies Program

Although bat-strain rabies has been known to exist in Massachusetts since the 1960's, a small bat population in the state and infrequent exposures limited the need for widespread awareness and control. The raccoon rabies epidemic beginning in 1992 posed new problems for public health officials. Since raccoons are so prevalent in rural and suburban areas, the potential for a large number of human and domestic animal exposures grew. Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Bureau of Animal Health. With the cooperation of the Department of Public Health and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, every angle of potential rabies exposures gets covered in order to prevent further rabies infections.

☎ Contact: Mike Cahill 617-626-1794, Mike.Cahill@state.ma.us

Animal Shipment

Each state in the nation has its own unique regulations to ensure that animals entering their state are free of infectious and contagious disease. Animals entering Massachusetts from other states must comply with our own import requirements outlined in statute, regulation and Animal Health programs to reduce the possibility of introducing contagious disease to our domestic animal population. Animals leaving Massachusetts must comply with the regulations set by the state of destination. A list of these import requirements is available from DFA.

☎ Contact: Sandy Pepe 617-626-1797, Sandy.Pepe@state.ma.us

Reportable Disease List

The following diseases are of extreme importance to the Bureau of Animal Health. They may be Foreign Animal Diseases which we currently do not have in this state; diseases which have serious public health consequences; or diseases that we have either previously eradicated from Massachusetts or are very close to eradicating. Veterinary practitioners are required to report suspect or positive cases of these diseases to the Bureau of Animal Health promptly.

☎ Contact: Esther Wegman 617-626-1795, Esther.Wegman@state.ma.us

Poultry Program

The Poultry Program covers production and movement of poultry and poultry products In Massachusetts. Certified inspectors for the state of Massachusetts perform inspection and testing. Programs include Salmonella, Avian Influenza, Mycoplasma testing and Egg and flock inspections. The objective of this program is to promote poultry by providing information for all poultry producers and to make disease-free poultry available to everyone from large farms to backyard flocks.

☎ Contact: Edward Hageman 617-626-1796, Edward.Hageman@state.ma.us

Equine Division

This division is responsible for the following: 1) The testing and licensing of new riding instructor applicants. 2) The licensing of riding instructors under Chapter 128, 2A. 3) The licensing of riding stables/riding schools. 4) The licensing of equine dealer/transporters. 5) The inspection of all public riding facilities. 6) The registration of stallions and foals eligible to the Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeding Program.

☎ Contact: Robert Bennett 617-626-1741, Robert.Bennett@state.ma.us

Town Animal Inspectors

Each city and town is required by law to appoint, through this Bureau at least one Animal Inspector. This is a high priority position dealing with animal and health and welfare. The Animal Inspector conducts the annual livestock census, educates the public on rabies control, quarantines domestic animals that have bitten someone or been exposed to a rabid animal, and checks on cattle that have been imported into the state.

☎ Contact: Auzinda Tavares 617-626-1792, Auzinda.Tavares@state.ma.us

Reportable Diseases

An accredited practicing veterinarian is usually the first professional to have contact with a disease that may be of a reportable nature. It is important that such diseases be reported as soon as possible to the appropriate State/Federal Veterinarians, or their agencies, so that the appropriate required actions may be taken to accomplish the following:

a. Assist the practitioner in achieving a definite diagnosis
b. Performance of any required additional tests to confirm diagnosis
c. Institution of regulatory actions to limit spread of the disease
d. Recommendations made to eliminate the disease if possible

Following is a list of the individual State/Federal personnel to whom reports should be made. The mode of reporting should be that which provides the most rapid notification consistent with the seriousness of the suspected disease. For example, immediate telephonic reporting is required in such suspected diseases as Foot and Mouth Disease, Rabies, Pseudorabies, TB, etc. Written reports would be acceptable for such diseases as Brucellosis, Actinomycosis, Mange, etc. See following list of Reportable Diseases for the priority of reporting.

Reporting may be done to the following locations:

Bureau of Animal Health
251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1795, 1791

USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services
136 Providence-Worcester Rd., Suite 20, Sutton, MA 01590
508-865-1421 or 1422

Reports may also be made to USDA-APHIS-VS veterinarians in the different areas of the state.

REPORTABLE DISEASES

DISEASES	SPECIES AFFECTED	REPORT PRIORITY
Actinomycosis	Bovine	2
African Swine Fever	Porcine	1
Anaplasmosis	Bovine	1
Anthrax	All species	1
Avian Influenza	Avian	1
Babesiasis(Piroplasmosis)	All species	1
Blackleg	Bovine	2
Bluetongue	Bovine, Ovine, Llama	1
Bovine Viral Diarrhea	Bovine	1
Brucellosis	All species	2
Contagious Ecthyma	Ovine	3
Contagious Equine Metritis	Equine	1
Encephalomyelitis(All)	Equine, Avian	1
Equine Infectious Anemia	Equine	1
Equine Viral Arteritis	Equine	2
Erysipelas	Porcine	2
Foot and Mouth Disease	All species	1
Fowl Plague (Cholera)	Avian	2
Glanders	Equine	1
Hog Cholera	Porcine	1
Infectious Laryngotracheitis	Avian	3
Listeriosis	Bovine, Ovine	2
Mange, All Types	Ovine	2
Sarcoptic, Psoroptic	Bovine	2
Sarcoptic	Porcine	2
Newcastle Disease (including VVND)	Avian	1
Paratuberculosis (Johnes)	Bovine	2
Potomac Fever	Equine	2
Pseudorabies	All species	1
Psittacosis	Pet Birds	2
Pullorum	Avian	2
Rabies	All species	1
Rinderpest	All species	1
Scrapie	Ovine	1
Swine Influenza	Porcine	2
Tuberculosis	All species	1
Vesicular Exanthema	All species	1
Vesicular Stomatitis	All species	1
Viral Abortion	Ovine	2
Viral Encephalitis	Equine	1
Viral Enteritis	Avian(Ducks)	2

Priorities for Reporting:

1. Report immediately by telephone, confirm in writing
2. May be reported in writing or by telephone in 24 hours
3. May be reported in writing or by telephone in 5 days

Extensive outbreaks of other infectious diseases that seem to be progressing such as ringworm, rhino, strangles, distemper, parvovirus, salmonella, etc. should be reported when in the opinion of the practitioner such disease constitutes a threat to the animal population.

Animal Health Publications

A Guide to Enjoying bird and Reptile Pets Safely
Information on two common diseases of birds and reptiles.

How Rabies ???
Frequently asked questions and answers on rabies in wildlife.

I was Bitten
Frequently asked questions and answers on domestic animals biting people.

Raising Healthy Baby Chicks, Ducklings, Goslings and Poults
Guidelines for raising chicks, ducklings, goslings, and poults from day old.

Rabies Pathogenesis
Overview of how the rabies virus affects dogs and cats.

Sanitary Practices Promoting Healthy Animals
General guidelines on biosecurity for keeping small animals.

Sanitary Practices Promoting Healthy Livestock
General guidelines on biosecurity for keeping livestock

Division of Regulatory Services

Director: Brad Mitchell
617-626-1771
Brad.Mitchell@state.ma.us

Overview

The Division of Regulatory Services encompasses the Bureaus of Pesticides and Farm Products and Plant Industries. The mission of the Pesticide Bureau is to minimize health and environmental risks associated with the use of pesticides. The Bureau of Farm Products is concerned with ensuring the quality and protection of agricultural inputs and products.

Bureau of Farm Products and Plant Industries

Bureau activities include: registration and analysis of fertilizers and animal feeds (including pet foods), grading of produce according to USDA standards, apiary inspections, nursery inspections, import/export phyto-sanitary inspections, pest surveys, organic farm inspections and Plant Pest Quarantine.

Federal-State Inspection Quality Program

Inspection of apples for export.
Issue Federal Phytosanitary Certificate for each shipment.
Issue Federal Quality Certificate for interstate shipment.
☎ Contact: Bob Rondeau 617-626-1804,Robert.Rondeau@state.ma.us

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

Handles animal feed issues related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Regulation 21 CFR 589.2000 prohibits feeding protein derived from the tissues of mammals to ruminant animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, elk, deer, and buffalo.
☎ Contact: Bob Rondeau 617-626-1804,Robert.Rondeau@state.ma.us

Branding Laws

Inspection of apples for the correct variety, proper U.S. grade, minimum size or count, name and address of packer or distributor. Advertisements, where price is mentioned, must show the variety, grade, and minimum size.

Inspection of potatoes for the proper U.S. grade, which must be shown on all packages or if in bulk, the grade must be affixed to the display area. Packages must show the name and address of packer or distributor. Advertisements, where prices are mentioned, must show the proper U.S. grade.
☎ Contact: George Porter 617-626-1800,George.Porter@state.ma.us

Native Law
If the word "native" is used in labeling or advertisements, the STATE of origin must appear immediately after the word "native". Example: "Native Massachusetts Corn".

Pet Food and Commercial Feeds
All pet food and commercial feed must be registered with the Department annually (January 1st of each year). Registration fee is $50.00 per product. There is no tonnage fee on feed. The following feeds are exempt from registration: customer formula feeds; raw meat; hay; straw; stover; stilages; cobs; husks; hulls when under ground and not intermixed with other materials and not adulterated. For registration and labeling requirements:
☎ Contact: George Porter 617-626-1800,George.Porter@state.ma.us

Commercial Fertilizer and Lime
All fertilizer products (non-farm use) and lime products must be registered annually (January 1st of each year). The registration fee is $50.00 per product. Commercial fertilizer manufacturers (for farm-use) is required to be licensed annually at a fee of $125.00. An inspection fee of 15 cents per ton is required bi-annually (January 1st and July 1st of each year). A minimum of $5.00 shall be paid to the Department. All soil conditioners are required to be registered whereby that it changes the structure of the soil, which promotes plant growth. All lime materials must also be registered at $50.00 per product. For registration and labeling requirements:
☎ Contact: George Porter 617-626-1800,George.Porter@state.ma.us

Fertilizer samples that are tested for the guaranteed analysis of Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium that are found to be deficient are penalized with a fine.
☎ Contact Bob Rondeau 617-626-1800,Bob.Rondeau@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Seed Law
All agricultural, turf, lawn, vegetable, flower, tree and shrub seeds must comply with the Massachusetts Seed Law and the Federal Seed Act. For a copy of the seed law:
☎ Contact: George Porter 617-626-1800,George.Porter@state.ma.us

Apple Certification Program
Apples being shipped to California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico must be certified to have been in a Massachusetts storage facility for a period of at least 40 days with the temperature at 32 degrees F. or less. For further information:
☎ Contact George Porter 617-626-1800,George.Porter@state.ma.us

Maple Syrup Testing Program
The Department samples maple syrup for the testing of the lead content, which is done by the Department of Public Health on a voluntary basis. Great strides have been made to ensure that the maple syrup complies with DPH's recommendations. For further information on testing and recommendations:
☎ Contact: Howard Vinton 617-626-1803,Howard.Vinton@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Apple Report

The Department publishes the "Massachusetts Apple Report" on a weekly basis during the marketing season – September to June. The report covers wholesale and F.O.B. prices on all of the important varieties including McIntosh, which has been very helpful to growers, shippers, and buyers. Storage holdings and movement of fruit and market conditions are also reported. The subscription price is $6.50 per year which is payable to the Massachusetts Fruit Growers Association. For further information:

☎ Contact: Howard Vinton 617-626-1803,Howard.Vinton@state.ma.us

Licensing and Certification

Agents are persons who buy and offer nursery stock for resale. There is an application process. Once applications are filled out completely and returned to the Bureau of Farm Products and Plants Industries with a fee of $35.00, an Agent's license will be issued. Agent's licenses must be renewed annually. For information regarding agent's licenses and/or to request an application:

☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-626-1801,Phyllis.Michalewich@state.ma.us

Nursery growers are persons who grown their own nursery stock. Applications for renewal are sent out annually. The fee structure is based on acreage:

Less than one acre	$15.00
1-5 acres	$45.00
6-25 acres	$60.00
26-100 acres	$75.00
over 100 acres	$105.00
greenhouses (not in a nursery)	$45.00

All nurseries and greenhouses are inspected annually between the months of June and October. Based on inspection reports and the receipt of applications with the appropriate fee, a "Growers Certificate" is issued. For information about obtaining a growers' certificate, becoming a grower, or to request an application:

☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-626-1801,Phyllis.Michalewich@state.ma.us

Exporting Nursery Stock

All nursery stock leaving Massachusetts is required to be accompanied by a certificate of inspection or a phytosanitary certificate. Based on individual state/country regulations and/or quarantines, nursery stock must be certified "free from" certain plant pests and diseases, i.e. japanese beetle in the western part of U.S. and a lot of countries, gypsy moth in areas outside the gypsy moth regulated areas. If plant material does not conform to state/country requirements, certificates must not be issued. For further information on exporting nursery stock or to schedule an inspection for export:

☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-626-1801,Phyllis.Michalewich@state.ma.us

People moving to some states, wishing to take their houseplants with them, require houseplant certification. For further information to move houseplants and/or to schedule a houseplant inspection:

☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-626-1801,Phyllis.Michalewich@state.ma.us

Cooperative work with USDA/APHIS/PPQ

Post Entry Quarantine

Some nursery stock brought into Massachusetts from foreign countries require import permits and a 2-year quarantine inspection process. PPQ (Plant Protection and Quarantine) form 526 must be filled out and approved prior to receivership of foreign plant material. For information regarding the importation of foreign plant material:
☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-626-1801,Phyllis.Michalewich@state.ma.us

Plant Industry Regulations

330 CMR 9:00-9:04: its purpose being to prevent the spread of white pine blister rust, cronartium ribicola, a disease affecting white pine trees.

Black currants are prohibited from the Commonwealth. This includes any black currant "plant, root, seed, or cutting". The town regulates all other currants and gooseberries. Control area permits are issued to persons, growers, who are shipping into the Commonwealth if they are in compliance with this regulation. A copy of this regulation can be found on the department web site: www.massdfa.org or:
☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-1801,Phyllis.Michalewich@state.ma.us

Plant Industries Publication

DIRECTORY OF CERTIFIED NURSERIES & GREEHOUSES and LICENSED AGENTS – This is a listing of all licensed growers and agents in the Commonwealth. This Directory is edited regularly, may be found on the department webside at www.massdfa.org or:
☎ Contact: Phyllis Michalewich 617-626-1801,Phyllis.Michale@state.ma.us

Western Office at Amherst, MA

The Amherst office is a USDA, APHIS, PPQ office with the Department performing all the duties. Federal Phytosanitary Certificates are issued for plants and plant materials for export. State Phytosanitary Certificates are issued for plants and plant materials for interstate travel as required. Application permits are signed-off for laboratory work in cooperation with the USDA, APHIS, PPQ office in Boston.

Inspections of nurseries, fruit and vegetables are done through this office.

- Fertilizer, feed, and maple syrup samplings are done for the testing of the guaranteed analysis and lead content in maple syrup.
- Controlled Atmosphere storage rooms are inspected and certified to conform to the regulations.
- Apiary inspections of beehives are made throughout the Commonwealth for Varroa Mite and the American Foul Brood.

☎ Contact: Al Carl and Ellen Krause at 413-253-2414 Fax: 413-253-0518

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Pesticide Bureau

The Pesticide Bureau is responsible for regulating pesticides. (All of the current pesticide regulations can be downloaded from www.massdfa.org). The Pesticide Bureau also acts as support staff for the Pesticide Board. The major functions of the Bureau are broken down into specific programs.

Applicator Exams, Licensing & Certification

There are four different types of credentials the state issues to eligible users. The specific credential depends on the classification of the pesticide and individual uses and where it is used. Exams are held at scheduled times throughout the year to assess knowledge of pesticide safety, use and regulations.

☎ Contact: Lee Corte-Real 617-626-1776, Lee.Corte-Real@state.ma.us.

Children and Families Protection Act

There is a new law entitled "An Act to Protect Children and Families From Harmful Pesticides". The Act, which is being implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, affects all private and public schools, day care centers and school age child care programs.

☎ Contact Mark Buffone 617-626-1777, Mark.Buffone@state.ma.us

Enforcement

The Pesticide Bureau must enforce the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act and the regulations 333CMR. In addition, the Department is designated by the USEPA as the state lead agency of the federal pesticide statute (FIFRA).

☎ Contact: John Kenney 617-626-1781, John.Kenney@state.ma.us

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is an ecologically-based approach to pest control that links together several related components, including monitoring and scouting, biological controls, mechanical and/or other cultural practices. The Massachusetts IPM Council promotes IPM practices and advances IPM education within urban and other settings.

☎ Contact: Mark Buffone 617-626-1777, Mark.Buffone@state.ma..us

IPM Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is the meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The Department implements and oversees these activities to ensure protection for those underserved populations in Massachusetts as related to reducing risk and reliance on pesticides through the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

☎ Contact: Trevor Battle 617-626-1775, Trevor.Battle@state.ma.us

Product Registration

In order to be able to distribute, purchase, or use a pesticide in Massachusetts, the product is subject to a two-tiered registration process. Before the state is able to consider registering a pesticide the product must first be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). To download an Application Form for registration of a pesticide product in Massachusetts check the DFA website, www.massdfa.org.

☎ Contact: Lee Corte-Real 617-626-1778, Lee.Corte-Real@state.ma.us

Public Drinking Water Supply Protection

DFA oversees regulations regarding groundwater source protection for sources of public drinking water supplies from non-point source pesticide contamination. The purpose of these regulations is to prevent non-point source contamination of public drinking water supply wells from pesticides products on the Ground Water Protection List (See **Publications** list).

☎ Contact: Gerard Kennedy 617-626-1773, Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us

Ground Water Sampling

☎ Contact: Taryn Lascola 617-626-1779, Taryn.Lascola@state.ma.us

Rights of Way Management

A right of way is any roadway or thoroughfare on which public passage is made and any corridor of land over which facilities such as railroads, pipelines, power-lines, conduits, channels, or communication lines are located. The Rights of Way Management regulations (333 CMR 11) were designed to minimize any potential harmful effects of herbicides used for vegetation control along rights of ways in Massachusetts. The regulations promote the use of an IPM approach to vegetation control and aims to protect private wells and environmentally sensitive areas. Forms to register private wells with the ROW program can be downloaded using Adobe Acrobat.

☎ Contact: Mike McClean 617-626-1782, Mike.McClean@state.ma.us

Toxicology

Provides informational assistance to the public, industry, non-government groups, and other government agencies. We are not a clearinghouse of available data but welcome calls and questions related to pesticides and their use. Informational kits and brochures providing assistance and describing Pesticide Bureau programs are available upon request.

☎ Contact: Steve Antunes-Kenyon 617- 626-1784, Steve.Antunes.Kenyon@state.ma.us

Waste Collection Programs, Storage and Disposal

The Pesticide Bureau's strategy to manage waste generated through pesticide use involves the coordination of a statewide pesticide waste collection and a container recycling program. To date the Bureau has facilitated the removal of almost 100,000 pounds of waste pesticides from the environment. The Bureau has also published a series of guidelines for the mixing, loading, and storage of pesticides.

☎ Contact: Gerard Kennedy 617-626-1773, Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us

The State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

The State Reclamation and Mosquito Board oversees and sets policy for the Commonwealth's nine mosquito control districts. The Board membership is composed of a representative of the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The chairman is the DFA representative. There are nine districts covering 140 communities across the Commonwealth.

☎ Chairman of the Board: John Kenney 617-626-1781, John.Kenney@state.ma.us
Secretary of the Board: Tracy Wine-Cornwell 617-626-1715, Tracey.Wine.Cornwell@state.ma.us

Pesticide Bureau Publications

These publications are available on-line at www.massdfa.org or by calling 617-626-1700.

Ground Water Protection List/Groundwater Protection Regulations - Towns with Zone II Areas:

A list of pesticides that pose a risk to groundwater based upon their toxicity and chemical characteristics and have been restricted.

Homeowner's Guide to Environmentally Sound Lawn Care

A resource manual that shows homeowners how to maintain a healthy lawn in a way that minimizes the need for insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in State Buildings

A brochure that provides guidance to pesticide applicators on how to go about the process of accessing and retrieving the necessary information and documents to become a pre-qualified contractor for the Commonwealth.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Kit for Building Managers

A kit designed to introduce building managers to the concept of IPM and to provide them with the knowledge to implement IPM programs in their buildings.

Lawn care for Pesticide Applicators

A consumer information sheet that answers commonly asked questions about pesticides and provides advice on safety measures.

Personal Protective Equipment Guide - Coveralls, Gloves, and Other Skin Protection

Personal Protective Equipment Guide Respirators

Pesticide Enforcement

A brochure describing the enforcement role of the Pesticide Bureau and outlining procedures for filing complaints.

Pesticides and Food, what you and your family need to know

Pesticide Storage and Handling Practices for Homes

Pesticides and our Endangered Species

Protect Yourself from Pesticides

A brochure, available in Spanish and English, that serves as a reminder of important pesticide safety steps.

Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Guide for Agricultural Workers

A booklet, available in Spanish and English, which presents all of the information required for training under the federal Worker Protection Standards.

Protecting Groundwater from Pesticides

A fact sheet outlining the ways in which a homeowner can protect groundwater from pesticides.

Question and Answers on Groundwater Protection from Pesticides

Storage, Mixing, and Loading of Pesticides Guidelines

A comprehensive guide to pesticide storage, mixing and loading practices, recommended safety measures, funding options and equipment distributors.

The Pest Invasion 2

A comic book developed by Chicago's Safer Pest Control Project outlining IPM practices in urban areas. Available in Spanish and English.

Urban Pest Control: (An Introduction: Q & A)

A brochure that describes the "IPM Way", an ecologically sensitive approach to pest management that integrates common sense with chemical, physical and biological approaches to pest management.

What to Know before You Hire a Pest Control Operator

A brochure outlining the steps consumers should follow when hiring a pest control operator.

Worker Protection Standards - An Introduction to the Rule

A pamphlet to provide a brief introduction to the federal Worker Protection Standards.

Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides – How to Comply

A reference guide to the WPS for employers.

Worker Protection Standard Safety Poster

Massachusetts Pesticide Regulations

The regulations can be downloaded from the Department's website using Adobe Acrobat.

Frequently Asked Questions

Agricultural Business Training Program

Q. When do courses start and where?
A. ABTP courses are offered on a flexible schedule, usually in the winter months. We teach them wherever the minimum 12 ag businesses can be expected to register. Class participants have input in the schedule, with the most common format being weekly three-hour sessions over 10 weeks.

Q. Am I eligible?
A. Participants must be Massachusetts agricultural enterprises (see next question if you are out-of-state) with a record of at least two years in business. It is fine to be contemplating a change to a new way of operating or even a new business pursuit on your farm, but you must have experience in being an agricultural operator – and you must have some assets going in. This course is not a start-up or pre-venture farms. However, we do partner with other agencies that offer courses for those needs, and can refer you if you call us.

Q. How much does this cost?
A. ABTP is heavily subsidized by MDFA for Massachusetts farms. We charge a $150 registration fee to secure your commitment and place in the class. Actual cost of this course with all extras exceeds $1500 per business. Some scholarships are available if the small fee is truly a barrier to your participation. We may accept some out-of-state businesses in border regions at the national average NxLevel tuition ($500). The fee includes all materials and, for MA farms, a substantial amount of extra individual on-site technical assistance.

Q. Does ABTP link to other MDFA programs?
A. The Farm Viability Enhancement Program and ABTP are closely linked and often cross-refer participants. ABTP can also qualify successful participants for FSA borrower training certification. The business plan you will create through ABTP is thorough enough to be well received by any commercial lender, and will help you work with other MDFA Departments/grant programs such as marketing, environmental enhancement and innovative technologies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Agro-Environmental Technology Grant Program

Q. Who is eligible to participate?
A. Proposals will be accepted from public and private agencies and organizations, business and industry, educational institutions and local governments in Massachusetts. Individuals may also apply if the project is endorsed by a specific commodity group, growers' association, or industry.

Q. What kind of projects will be considered?
A. Demonstration projects, feasibility analyses and applied research which involve new or alternative production, processing, distribution or market access technologies, practices or organizational arrangements.

Q. How much funding can one request?
A. Up to $50,000 per project is available. Awards are allotted on a matching basis. $1.2 million was allotted to initiate the program in 1995. This funding should support the program for at least six years.

Q. Can I receive a grant to help buy a farm or new equipment?
A. No. It is not the purpose of the program to substitute for business start up, expansion or other types of loans or capital. It is the purpose of the program to prove or demonstrate a new activity, which will benefit the food and agriculture industry.

Q. How do I apply for a grant?
A. The Department will release a request for response (RFR) around September 1st of each year. Proposals will be accepted from October 15th through December 1st. Applicants should request a set of guidelines from the Coordinator for instructions on proposal requirements during this time.

Q. Who determines what projects are to be funded?
A. Proposals must be approved by the Board of Food and Agriculture, the policy setting board for the Department. Proposals are evaluated on a competitive basis and judged against the criteria and objectives of the program outlined in the RFR.

Q. What are eligible expenses utilizing grant funds?
A. Grant funds may be used for salaries and wages (personnel costs are limited to 50% of grant amount), consultant services, supplies and materials, travel, advertising and promotion, communications and data processing.

Q. When are funds released to successful proposers?
A. Grant funds will not be awarded as lump sums at the initiation of the project. Payments are made for services received during or at the end of a contract period for the project. Most projects should have a duration of one year or less.

Q. Whom do I contact for more information?

A. Contact: Craig M. Richov, Director, Grant Programs, Mass. Department of Food and Agriculture, 142 Old Common Road, Lancaster, MA 01523, 508-792-7711 x 17, or 617-626-1725, Craig.Richov@state.ma.us, or on line information at: www.massdfa.org/agroenv.htm

Frequently Asked Questions

Animal Health

Q. How long is a health certificate good for?
A. Massachusetts considers Interstate health certificates to be valid for 30 days, but health certificates for dogs and cats in pet shops are valid for only 7 days. If the animal becomes sick, certificate no longer valid.

Q. Do I need a pet shop license to just sell fish, pet products, feed & supplies?
A. No

Q. I am getting mammals, reptiles or birds from someone else and re-selling them. Do I need a pet shop license?
A. Yes, call 617-626-1795 for application and Rules and Regulations. Breeders selling the off spring of their own animals do not need a license.

Q. What types of animals are legal to sell in pet shops?
A. Most common domestic animals are legal to sell in Massachusetts. For questions on less common or exotic species, call 617-626-1575.

Q. Can I vaccinate my own dog/cat/ferret for rabies?
A. No, state law requires it be done by a licensed veterinarian.

Q. My dog/cat/domestic animal bit someone and is up to date on his rabies. Why is it quarantined?
A. State law requires that any dog/cat/domestic animal that bites or causes a scratch that breaks the skin be quarantined for at least 10 days. Call your local Animal Inspector or the Rabies Program Coordinator at 617-626-1794.

Q. My dog/cat/domestic animal had contact with a wild animal? What do I do?
A. Call your local Animal Inspector immediately. Call 617-626-1794 for more info. For information on human exposures, call 617-983-6800.

Q. What if I can't afford to spay/neuter my dog/cat?
A. MSPCA has a program for low cost spaying/neutering. Call 617-541-5007 or 413-736-2992.

Q. Can I bury my horse/cow/goat/pig on my property?
A. Proper disposal of dead animals is a local issue. Check with your local authorities, such as the Board of Health.

Q. Who licenses groomers?
A. There is no state license. Local permits may be required. Disease control concerns should be brought to the attention of the Bureau of Animal Health. Call 617-626-1791.

Q. What diseases are reportable to the Bureau of Animal Health?
A. Call 617-626-1795 or see web page www.massdfa.org. In addition, any disease problem that is not under control should be reported.

Q. Where do I get my veterinarian license?
A. Veterinarians are licensed in Massachusetts by the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine. Call 617-727-3080.

Q. How do I become a federally accredited veterinarian in Massachusetts?
A. Call 508-865-1421, USDA-APHIS

Q. I want to bring my animal to any state in the US. What do I do? I want to bring my animal into Massachusetts. What do I do?
A. Call 617-626-1797, 1792, 1795, Bureau of Animal Health for further information.

Q. A restaurant, store or institution wants to dispose of its unused or used food that will not be fed to humans. Are there any livestock farms that will use it for feed?
A. Call 617-626-1797, Bureau of Animal Health. The Bureau has a list of livestock producers who may be willing to accept the food.

Q. I have a complaint against a breeder/kennel?
A. Call your local authorities. If it is a disease problem, call 617-626-1791.

Q. How do I become a town Animal Inspector?
A. First contact your city/town. For more information call 617-626-1792.

Q. Who can do TB and Brucellosis work on my livestock?
A. Only Mass. Licensed and Accredited Veterinarians are allowed to do TB and Brucellosis work.

Q. What does the Pullorum test cost?
A. 10 cents per bird. BAH tests birds on premise of owner. Call 617-626-1796, 1798, 1799 for testing.

Q. Where can I buy fertile eggs for a classroom project?
A. Call 617-626-1796, 1798, 1799.

Q. Where in Mass. can I buy day old chicks or day old turkey poults?
A. Use NPIP website (www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/npip/) Plan Participants Or call 617-626-1798, 1796.

Q. If I want to do a hatching egg project for school or hatch chicks at home, where can I buy a table top incubator?
A. Feed stores, farm supplies catalogs, chicken breeder catalogs. Some local extension services, 4H or local FFA organizations have one to lend.

Q. I am thinking of getting some chickens. What are the requirements?
A. Refer to the NPIP website (www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/npip/) for source of pullorum clean stock. And if removing from property for anything other than slaughter, birds must be pullorum tested. Call 617-626-1796, 1798.

Q. How long can I keep eggs in my refrigerator?
A. 30 days from expiration date. For more info call 212-759-1811 American Egg Board www.AEB.org or call 501-907-2455 National Egg Regulatory Officials.

Q. What is a Grade A, large egg?
A. Grade refers to quality of egg and shell at time of packing. Size refers to net weight of a dozen.

Q. Do eggs have to be kept refrigerated?
A. Yes. Eggs, by law, have to be held at 32° to 45°F degrees. Do not keep eggs below 30°F; they will freeze.

Q. What is the difference between a brown or a white egg?
A. The only difference is the breed of chicken that laid the egg. Brown egg breeds are typically heavier and more suited to New England weather.

Q. How many eggs does a chicken lay in one day?
A. Usually one.

Frequently Asked Questions

Agricultural Composting Program

The Agricultural Composting Program at the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture is designed to encourage the practice of composting as a means of improving management of farm wastes and organic residues. Farm based composting has been practiced for many decades on some Massachusetts farms and has been increasingly adopted by numerous others during recent years.

Q. What does the Agricultural Composting Program do?
A. Through a statewide composting specialist, the program offers technical assistance and regulatory guidance for existing and new composting operations. The specialist also registers farm composting operations, which offer an exemption from the Department of Environmental Protection regulations for solid waste activities. This registration allows farms to receive specific organic wastes from off farm sources.

Q. Who may be involved with the Program?
A. Farmers that are considering or utilizing composting within farm management activities may receive guidance and support regarding composting processes and methods, information regarding materials, site selection, and applicable regulations. Municipal officials needing information about farm based composting and relevant regulations may also request assistance.

Q. What regulations must be considered?
A. Agricultural composting is considered a farming activity even if appropriate off-farm materials are brought into the farm for composting. The Department of Food and Agriculture provides a registration process that distinguishes these operations as agricultural rather than solid waste management , which would be subject to more restrictive solid waste regulation by the Department of Environmental Protection. Farms receiving off-farm materials should register composting operations with the Department of Food and Agriculture to clarify the agricultural status of this activity.

Q. How extensively are farms involved with composting?
A. In 1998, more than 100 farms were composting materials from off-farm sources. Over 250,000 cubic yards of off-farm materials are being handled annually. More than 40 municipalities rely on farms to handle leaves from residential collection. Several farms now compost diverse food processing residues. Livestock farmers are increasingly employing composting to manage manures and to produce a valuable compost material. Composting has both environmental and economic benefits for many situations.

Q. Whom do I contact for more information?
A. Contact Bill Blanchard for more program information at 617-626-1709.

Frequently Asked Questions

Dairy Services

Q. By law, how long can you use milk past the expiration date?
A. While some states regulate expiration dates on milk, Massachusetts does not. The milk processor establishes the expiration date. It is the date by which the milk should be sold. If properly refrigerated, milk should stay fresh long enough past the date for normal usage of a few days.

Frequently Asked Questions

Fairs

Q. Our organization is having a community fair. Can we have horse racing?
A. Horse racing is only permitted at major fairs.

Q. Who decides what fair is qualified to hold horse races?
A. This is at the discretion of the Commissioner and the Board of Agriculture.

Q. How far in advance does our organization have to file for a permit to have horse racing?
A. By September 15 of the year before the event.

Q. Our organization wants to have a one-day fair. Are there any restrictions on the amount of hours we have to be open for business?
A. All types of one-day fairs must be open for at least five hours.

Q. How is the money awarded? Does my organization have to write checks to the winners after the fair is over?
A. No, the DFA saves your organization the time of doing so by disbursing the prize money directly to winners.

Q. If our organization wanted to apply for prize money from the state, what types of disciplines are covered?
A.

Flowers	Breeding Ponies
Fruits	Cattle
Vegetables	Sheep
Grasses	Swine
Grains	Poultry
Other Farm Crops	Poultry Products
Dairy Products	Farm Operations
Honey	Canned & Dried Fruits
Horses	Elimination & Suppression of Pests

Q. When is the deadline for applying for prize money?
A. February 15 of the year during which the fair will be held.

Q. What are the age limits for boys and girls to win prizes at Fairs?
A. Youths must be between the ages of 9 and 20 by January 1 of the year during which the fair is held.

Q. Can out-of-state residents qualify for prize money?
A. No, premiums are limited to residents of Massachusetts.

Frequently Asked Questions

Farm Products and Plant Industries

Q. I am planning to start a nursery. Do I need a license? How can I get one?
A. Yes, you need a license. If you are buying and offering stock for resale you are required to hold an "Agents License". If you are growing your own stock, you are required to hold a "Certificate of Inspection". Both of these licenses may be obtained by calling Phyllis Michalewich at 617-626-1801.

Q. I am planning to open a floral design business. Do I need a license?
A. No, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not regulate cut flowers or annuals.

Q. I am moving to California (Florida, Texas). I would like to take my houseplants with me. Can I take them?
A. Yes. You are required to have the houseplants inspected. Truck drivers are required to stop at agricultural inspection stations in various states. (Not all states require this certification). It's best to call to find out which states require inspections. Please call Phyllis Michalewich at 617-626-1801 to set up an appointment. There is no fee for this inspection.

Q. I would like to grow black currants in my garden. Can I plant them?
A. No. Black currants are prohibited in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All other currants and gooseberries may be allowed in some towns with a control area permit. Call Phyllis Michalewich at 617-626-1801 to see if your town is regulated.

Q. I would like to take hemlock plants to New Hampshire. What are the requirements?
A. Hemlocks going to New Hampshire, Maine or Vermont are restricted. Each of the northern states has "Hemlock Wooley Adelgid" quarantines in place. You should inquire before shipping to the northern states. For more information regarding Hemlock Wooley Adelgid quarantines or to schedule an inspection, call Phyllis Michalewich at 617-626-1801.

Frequently Asked Questions

Farm Viability Enhancement Program

Q. What is Farm Viability?
A. Farm Viability is a business planning program designed to look at ways of diversifying and modernizing a farm's operation. Application is by a competitive process and once selected a farm goes through a business planning phase. If after the business plan is completed and the farmer is willing to implement the changes recommended in the business plan AND sign a non-development covenant for a period of five or ten years, the Department may make money available to implement the changes recommended in the business plan.

Q. Who is eligible to participate?
A. The Department is seeking farmers who intend to have their land in continued agricultural use and who wish to enhance the economic viability of their farm. Any Massachusetts farmer with at least 5 acres of land in agricultural production is eligible to apply. Farmland owners of land already preserved under the APR program are eligible to apply for business planning assistance only. APR landowners with additional unrestricted, non APR land, are eligible to receive funding.

Q. How do I apply to the Farm Viability Program?
A. A request for response is usually made in February of each year. Applications are then made available and are due by the end of March. Awards are then announced in June or July, depending on budget legislation for the new fiscal year starting July 1.

Q. What is the criteria for selecting applications?
A. Applications are evaluated and selected based on: the degree of threat to the continuation of agriculture on the land; the number of acres to be placed in the program; the current intensity of use on the farm; its significance and contribution to the state's agricultural industry; whether the farm has diversified into retail or value-added activities; the agricultural experience of the operator; whether environmental objectives would be accomplished through the program; and the productivity of the land based on soil quality, physical features and location.

Q. How does the program work?
A. If selected, a team is organized for each farm and is comprised of professionals from various disciplines including agriculture, marketing, finance, management, and environmental sciences. Following an assessment of the farms financial records, management practices, equipment, buildings, and natural resources, the team will make recommendations for improving the viability of the farm. Working with the farmer, the recommendations would be prioritized and contained in a complete business plan for the farm. The farmer may then request funding for the plans implementation in exchange for a restriction covenant.

Q. How much money is available through the Program?
A. Technical assistance and the development of business plans is provided at no cost to the farmer. Farmers who are then willing to sign a ten year restriction covenant are eligible to receive up to $40,000. Up to $20,000 is available for farmers willing to agree to a covenant for a period of five years.

Q. What are the conditions and terms in these covenants?
A. The covenant is a deed restriction prohibiting any uses on the farm except agricultural uses. The covenant is recorded at the registry of deeds and prohibits activities detrimental to the agricultural use of the land for a specific number of years, five or ten. Rights retained by landowners include the right to privacy and to carry out regular agricultural practices, to maintain the farm in its present condition, and to construct or place temporary structures for agricultural uses. Prohibited uses include construction or placement of non agriculturally related temporary or permanent structures, and non agricultural uses on the land. Prior written approval may be requested for certain structures or uses that do not derogate from the intent of the covenant.

Q. When do farmers receive funds?
A. Once the business plan is complete, usually taking 3 to 6 months for the team consulting process, a contract is prepared with a timetable for how and when funds are to be spent. Upon execution of the contract, funds are released in a lump sum. The contract terminates with the farmer reporting the records and receipts of the expenditures made with funds received from the Program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Marketing

Q. Where can I find organic apples?
A. Growing conditions do not make it possible to grow saleable, organic apples in Massachusetts. Most Massachusetts growers practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a practice that uses environmentally-friendly growing methods such as beneficial insects and crop rotation that helps limit the amount of pesticides used on apples. We suggest that you ask the apple orchard that you plan to visit or purchase apples from about their spraying practices. Most likely, the grower will be glad to discuss them with you.

Q. What is a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)?
A. CSAs offer a cooperative arrangement between farmers and consumers. At the start of the season, consumers purchase "shares" of the farm which entitle them to a certain amount of produce (as defined by the farm) when the produce comes into season. Consumers benefit by gaining access to fresh, local food. CSA farms benefit from having a fixed market for their produce and by having money up front to purchase supplies such as seed. Farms also benefit by passing some of the risk onto consumers. If the farm has a bad season, its shareholders get less produce per share; if the farm has a particularly good season, they get more produce per share.

Q. Where can I find a listing of CSA farms?
A. Contact the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture at www.massdfa.org or visit Massachusetts Agriculture Online at www.massgrown.org.

Q. How do I start a specialty food business?
A. Contact Bonita Oehlke at (617) 626-1753 for information about starting a specialty food business. A resource directory on creating a food processing business is available as well as information on the Massachusetts Specialty Food Association.

Q. How do I start a farmers' market? How do I find new farmers' markets to sell at?
A. Contact David Webber at (617) 626-1754 about any questions related to farmers' markets. He has brochures on how to start a farmers' market and up-to-date information about the markets currently operating in the state. Also ask him for information on the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets.

Q. How do I get into agri-tourism? What does it entail?
A. Contact Anneli Johnson at (617) 626-1755 for information about starting up or expanding your agri-tourism operation. She has an "option paper " on the topic that she can send you. Also she hosts seminars on this topic and publishes an "Agri-tourism Directory."

Q. How do I get an agricultural directional sign for my farm?
A. Contact Anneli Johnson at (617) 626-1755 for information about the agricultural directional sign program. She will send you the appropriate paperwork and assist you with the process.

Q. I want to take my children to a farm. Where should I take them?
A. Call 1-877-MASSGROWN or visit www.massgrown.org for a copy of our "Agri-tourism Directory." It lists about a hundred different farms that offer activities to the public.

Q. I'm interested in selling my produce to restaurants. Who should I call?
A. David Webber is the contact for farms interested in selling to restaurants. He also publishes a "Farmer/Chef Guide." David can be reached at (617) 626-1754.

Q. How do I get "Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher" signs, stickers, etc.? How much do they cost?
A. Call Rick LeBlanc at (617) 626-1759 for information on "Mass. Grown" signs and other point-of-purchase materials. These materials are free and are available in limited quantities. To obtain them, you must sign and return a consent form that confirms that you will only use them on Massachusetts grown or purchased products.

Q. I'm interested in starting up a farm stand. Whom should I call?
A. Rick LeBlanc is the farm stand contact. He can be reached at (617) 626-1759. Ask him for information on the Massachusetts Association of Roadside Stands.

Q. I'm interested the Department's Marketing Grant Program. Whom should I call?
A. Mary Jordan oversees the Department's Marketing Grant Program. She can be reached at (617) 626-1750.

Q. I'm interested in learning more about Agricultural Day (Ag. Day) at the State House. Whom should I call?
A. Mary Jordan runs Ag. Day at the State House in conjunction with the Mass Ag. Promotional Board. Mary can be reached at (617) 626-1750.

Q. I am interested in exporting my products. Whom should I call?
A. Call Bonita Oehlke at 617-626-1753.

Q. According to my importer, I need a letter of free sale for my food products. What do I do?
A. Contact Bonita Oehkle at 617-626-1753, Bonita.Oehlke@stat.ma.us. The Department, when appropriate information is provided, can issue a letter of free sale.

Q. I want to have my farm certified as organic. How do I do this?
A. There are new regulations affecting organic farming. Contact Don Franczyk, 683 River St. Winchendon, MA 01475, e-Mail: dfranczyk@starpower.net, 978-297-4171. The Department of Food and Agriculture liaison for organic production is: Anneli Johnson, 617-626-1755, anneli.johnson@state.ma.us

Q. I want to buy products for my institution. Whom should I call?
A. Call Kelly Erwin at 413-545-2353.

Q. I want to sell my products to institutional accounts. Whom should I call?
A. Call Kelly Erwin at 413-545-2353.

Q. I would like to get involved in my region's Buy Local efforts. Whom should I call?
A. Kelly Erwin (Western Mass) 413-253-3844; Rick LeBlanc (Central Mass) 617-626-1759; Bonita Oehlke (Essex county area) 617-626-1753; Anneli Johnson (Southeastern Mass) 617-626-1704.

Q. What programs are offered for new farmers?
A. Contact the New England Small Farm Institute at 413-323-4531.

Q. How do I apply for the Federal State Market Improvement Program (FSMIP) grant?
A. Contact Mary Jordan at 617-626-1750 for more information.

Acronyms

ABTP – Agricultural Business Training Program

ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers

AEEP – Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program

AFT - American Farmland Trust - a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving agricultural resources. (413) 586-9330 – Northampton office.

AGRI-MARK – Dairy Cooperative

AI – Avian Influenza – respiratory poultry disease

AMS – Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA)

APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA)

APR - Agricultural Preservation Restriction – a permanent deed restriction aimed at protecting farmland from development and ensuring its long term agricultural viability. (See Section on Bureau of Land Use).

ASF – African Swine Fever

BAH – Bureau of Animal Health

BGH – Bovine Growth Hormone (see also RBST – Recombinant bovine somatotropin)

BMP – Best Management Practice

BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease)

BT – Bacillus Thuringensis

BVD – Bovine Viral Diarrhea

CAE – Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis

CAFO – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation

CCCGA – Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CISA – Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture - a community organization dedicated to sustaining agriculture in Western Massachusetts by strengthening the relationships between farmers and consumers. CISA's website is www.buylocalfood.com, (413) 559-5338.

CLF – Conservation Law Foundation

CMAST – Center for Marine Science and Technology – at UMass Dartmouth

CMR – Code of Massachusetts Regulations

CNCF –Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives

COSDA – Communication Officers of State Departments of Agriculture – an affiliate of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

CPA – Children's Protection Act

CPA – Community Preservation Act

CR – Conservation Restriction – a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a public agency or non-profit organization to restrict certain rights of land ownership in order to protect the ecological, open space and/or agricultural values of the property.

CSA – Community Supported Agriculture - CSA reflects an innovative and resourceful strategy to connect local farmers with local consumers. Community members sign up and purchase their shares, either in one lump sum before the seeds are sown in early spring, or in several installments through-out the growing season. In return for their investment, CSA members receive a bag of fresh, locally-grown, typically organic produce once a week from late spring through early fall, and occasionally throughout the winter in northern climates and year-round in milder zones.

CWD – Chronic Wasting Disease – Infectious disease of elk/deer

CZM – Coastal Zone Management

DCAM - Division of Capital Asset Management – the state organization that reviews all state property transactions.

DEM - Dept. of Environmental Management - the state's primary land management and natural resources planning agency, part of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA).

DEP – Dept. of Environmental Protection – the state agency that administers the Commonwealth's environmental regulatory programs for the protection of water, air, and land resources, part of EOEA.

DFA – Dairy Farmers of America Cooperative

DFA – Dept. of Food & Agriculture – part of Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, EOEA.

DFWELE – Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement (Mass Wildlife) – the agency responsible for the management and conservation of the state's fisheries and wildlife, including rare and endangered species. Part of EOEA.

DFW – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

DMF – Division of Marine Fisheries

DMH – Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

DOE – Department of Education

DPH – Massachusetts Department of Public Health

ECGBA – Essex County Greenbelt Association - a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the open space heritage of Essex County.

EEE – Eastern Equine Encephalitis

EIA – Equine Infectious Anemia

EOEA – Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - the state agency primarily responsible for protecting and conserving natural resources in Massachusetts. Under the leadership of Secretary Bob Durand, EOEA's priorities are: Biological Conservation and Ecosystem Protection, Environmental Education, Pollution Prevention and Encouraging Environmental Business & Technology.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency – federal agency responsible for environmental issues.

EUSAFEC – now called Food Export USA Northeast, one of several regional trade organizations.

EVA – Equine Viral Arteritis

FACAS – Farmland Advisory Committee Aquaculture Subcommittee

FAS – Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA)

FDA – Food and Drug Administration

FELV – Feline Leukemia Virus

FIFRA – Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (EPA/FDA)

FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease – viral infection of livestock, highly infectious

FMFM – Federation of Massachusetts Farmers Markets

FMI – Food Marketing Institute

Food Export USA Northeast – formerly EUSAFEC, one of several regional trade organizations.

FQPA – Food Quality Protection Act (EPA)

FSA – Farm Service Agency (USDA)- provides credit assistance to farms through direct or guaranteed loans. Main Office: Amherst – 413-256-0232

FSMIP – Federal State Market Improvement Program

FVAC – Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission

FVEP – Farm Viability Enhancement Program

FVRCCP – Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici, Chlamydia, Panleukopenia

GMO – Genetically Modified Organism

GIS - Geographical Information System

GUP – General Use Pesticide

HACCP – Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points – Federal Food Safety Program

HC – Hog Cholera

HC – Health Certificate

IBR – Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis

ILT – Infectious Laryngotracheitis – poultry respiratory disease

IPM – Integrated Pest Management

Land Trusts - Private, nonprofit, conservation organization dedicated to open space preservation and environmental awareness and advocacy at the local, regional, state and/or national level.

LCI – Livestock Conservation Institute - old name for NIAA - National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

MAA – Massachusetts Aquaculture Association

MAAG – Massachusetts Aquaculture Advisory Group

MAC – Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom

MAGP – Massachusetts Aquaculture Grants Program

MAPB – Massachusetts Agriculture Promotion Board

MARS – Massachusetts Association of Roadside Stands & PYO Farms – www.massfarmstands.com.

MassDevelopment, also MDFA – Massachusetts Development Finance Agency – a quasi-public entity that provides loans to businesses

MassGIS - Mass. Geographical Information System - MassGIS manages the state's geographic database and produces maps and related materials which show location and natural features for all DFA programs. System can produce overlay analyses and provide detailed digital soils data (where available) for many applications. Can also produce resource-based maps for towns and other non-DFA organizations.

Mass Wildlife – (see DFWELE)

MBL – Marine Biological Laboratory

MDC – Metropolitan District Commission - maintains much of the infrastructure of the Metropolitan Boston area, including the water supply, bridges, recreational facilities, and flood control systems.

MEFAP – Mass. Emergency Food Assistance Program – established in 1995 in response to decreased federal funding for emergency food programs. The program provides food assistance and nutrition education to citizens in need in the Commonwealth.

MEPA process – Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act

MFA – Massachusetts Food Association

MFGA – Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association

MG – Mycoplasma gallisepticum – poultry or turkey respiratory disease

MIT – Massachusetts Institute for Technology

MM – Mycoplasma meleagridis – infectious turkey disease

MMA – Mass Maritime Academy

MMA – Massachusetts Municipal Association – an organization of all cities and towns' municipal officials designed to advocate for local government in the Legislature and provide training and technical assistance to boards and committees.

MNLA – Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association

MOBD – Massachusetts Office of Business Development – a part of the state's Department of Economic Development that works directly with businesses trying to locate or expand within the state. Provides technical assistance and advocacy.

MRA – Massachusetts Restaurant Association

MRDC - Massachusetts Rural Development Council, Inc., (MRDC) a not-for-profit corporation that serves as a collaboration of national government, Massachusetts state government, municipalities, private for-profit and private not-for-profit sectors to provide development opportunities for rural Massachusetts residents.

MS – Mycoplasma synoviae – infectious disease of poultry

MSFA – Massachusetts Specialty Foods Association – an affiliation of over 100 specialty food producers. The Association provides advocacy, opportunities for networking, and technical assistance to its members, as well as a presence at trade shows.

MVSG – Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group

NAAMO – National Association of Agricultural Marketing Officials

NASDA – National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

NASS – National Agricultural Statistics Service

NEAAMO – Northeast Association of Agricultural Marketing Officials

NEASDA – Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture

NEASS – New England Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA)

NEFC – Northeast Farm Communicators Association

NEMAC – Northeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center

NEPC – New England Produce Council - The Council is a non-profit trade whose mission is to promote the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Industry in the New England Region, through various programs and services. Members are involved in all sectors of the industry: distribution; production; foodservice; and retail of fresh fruits and vegetables.
www.newenglandproduce.com

NEMGA – New England McIntosh Growers Association - The New England McIntosh Growers Association is a non-profit grower-funded organization charged with promoting New England apples and raising public awareness of varieties that are grown here.

NESFI – New England Small Farm Institute

NEVBGA – New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Association

NIAA – National Institute for Animal Agriculture, formerly LCI – private organization that promotes livestock production

NOFA/Mass. – Northeast Organic Farming Association - Massachusetts Chapter, Inc. NOFA is the certifying agent for organic produce in Massachusetts. Contact: Julie Rawson 411 Sheldon Rd., Barre, MA 01005, (978) 355-2853, (978) 355-2270.

NRA – National Restaurant Association

NRAC – Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center - USDA

NRCS - Natural Resource Conservation Service - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Services) is a Federal agency that works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain our natural resources. It offers soil classification, soil mapping and soil erosion control. Helps farmers put conservation on the land they own or manage for the purpose of protecting natural resources—soil, water, plants, animals, air and people.

NVSL – National Veterinary Services Lab – USDA's animal disease diagnostic lab

OECA – Office of Compliance Assistance – (EPA)

OPP – Office of Pesticide Programs – (EPA)

OPP – Ovine Progressive Pneumonia

OTA – Office of Technical Assistance (EOEA)

OTA – Organic Trade Association

PAT – Pesticide Applicator Training

PDR – Purchase of Development Rights - a permanent deed restriction that prohibits development.

PETA – People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – a national animal rights organization.

PMA – Produce Marketing Association - The Produce Marketing Association, founded in 1949, is a not-for-profit international trade association serving over 2,500 members who market fresh fruits, vegetables, and floral products worldwide. Its members are involved in the production, distribution, retail, and foodservice sectors of the industry. PMA's mission is: To create a favorable, responsible environment that advances the marketing of produce and floral products and services for North American buyers and sellers and their international partners. www.pma.com.

PMO – Pasteurized Milk Ordinance

POP – Point of Purchase - a retail marketing term that refers to the location where consumers actually buy a product. POP materials generally refers to signage used to help promote product.

POS – Point of Sale – synonymous with POP.

PPQ – Plant Protection & Quarantine

PRV – Pseudorabies – swine disease

PVGA – Pioneer Valley Growers Association

PYO - Pick Your Own

RBST – Recombinant bovine somatotropin, also known as BGH

RFR – Request for Response – required bidding process for goods and services funded by state government including DFA's grant programs like Farm Viability. A RFR is the official document that describes what a bidder must do to bid on a project.

RMA - Risk Management Agency – USDA

ROW - Right of Way – A right of way is any roadway or thoroughfare on which public passage is made and any corridor of land over which facilities such as railroads, pipelines, power-lines, conduits, channels, or communication lines are located.

RPA - Regional Planning Agencies - The state is divided into 13 regions each of which has a Planning Agency. In some cases, the agency is called a Commission, e.g. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The organizations assist cities and towns with planning and transportation issues.

RUP – Restricted Use Pesticide

SBDC – Small Business Development Center – headquartered at UMass Amherst, this organization provides business management consulting to small businesses, recently including agriculture.

SE – Salmonella Enteriditis – potential bacteria for human infection via food sources

SEMAC – South Eastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center

SEMAP – South Eastern Mass. Agriculture Partnership – a collaboration of 60 groups related to or involved in agriculture in Southeastern Mass.

SFIREG – State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (EPA)

SLA – State Lead Agency (lead as in "to lead" not the metal)

SSWG – Sea Scallop Working Group

TNC - The Nature Conservancy - Founded in 1951, the Nature Conservancy is the world's leading private, international conservation group. TNC preserves habitats and species by saving the lands and waters in which they need to survive. www.tcn.org – 1-800-628-6860.

TTOR - The Trustees of Reservations - a member-supported, charitable, nonprofit organization to preserve for public use and enjoyment, landscapes of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts and to protect special places across the state. Its mission includes protecting private landscapes through the use of perpetual conservation restrictions. 978-921-1944.

UMass – University of Massachusetts

UMR – Uniform Methods and Rules – Federal standards for livestock disease eradication

USDA - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - USDA's Mission: Enhance the quality of life for the American people by supporting production of agriculture; ensuring a safe, affordable, nutritious, and accessible food supply; caring for agricultural, forest, and range lands; supporting sound development of rural communities; providing economic opportunities for farm and rural residents; expanding global markets for agricultural and forest products and services; and working to reduce hunger in America and throughout the world. www.usda.gov.

USFES – US Food Export Showcase

USFWS – US Fisheries and Wildlife Service

U-RULE – Universal Waste Rule

WHOI – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

WMCSA – Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture

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